

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00722 111031Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 PRS-01 H-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 /023 W

----- 059419

P R 110911Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2225

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0722

EUR/SOV FOR LEVITSKY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PINS, SREF, UR, US

SUBJECT: EMIGRATION CASE OF FELIX ARONOVICH

REF: LENINGRAD 0547

1. POLOFF VISITED FELIX ARONOVICH ON MAY 10 AFTER RECEIVING QUERY FROM AP BUREAU MOSCOW ON REPORT THAT ARONOVICH CONDUCTING HUNGER STRIKE AS PROTEST OVER EXIT REFUSAL. THERE IS NO RPT NO BASIS FOR RUMOR ABOUT HUNGER STRIKE AND FROFOVICH IS QUITE WELL. EUR/SOV MAY WISH TO INFORM HIS MOTHER, MRS. DINENZON, THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO REASON FOR CONCERN. SHE HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO CALL ARONOVICH FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS, BUT CONNECTION IS BROKEN JUST AS CALL RECEIVED HERE. ARONOVICH BELIEVES -- NO DOUBT CORRECTLY-- THAT MOTHER IS WORRIED DUE TO LACK OF CONTACT. IF EUR/SOV OFFICER DOES CONTACT MOTHER, PLEASE MENTION THAT ARONOVICH WILL ATTEMPT CALL MOTHER FROM LENINGRAD AT 1900 LOCAL WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 (WHICH WILL BE 1100 CHICAGO TIME). DEPT. MAY RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY IF HUNGER STRIKE RUMOR IS RECEIVING CREDENCE.

2. ARONOVICH BELIEVES RUMOR OF HUNGER STRIKE DUE TO "MISUNDERSTANDING" ON PART OF SOME AMERICAN VISITORS WHO CALLED ON HIM IN LATE APRIL AND RECENTLY RETURNED TO UNITED STATES.

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3. ARONOVICH WAS SUMMONED TO LENINGRAD VOIR ON MAY 7 FOR MEETING

WITH OVIR CHIEF BOKOV AND A DEPUTY MILITIA CHIEF OF CITY. ARONOVICH HAD THOUGHT SUMMONS MIGHT HAVE POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE, BUT IT AMOUNTED TO A FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF HIS EXIT REFUSAL. BOKOV READ STATEMENT WHICH INFORMED ARONOVICH THAT IN CONNECTION WITH HIS REQUEST TO PARTY AUTHORITIES, HIS CASE HAD BEEN EXAMINED AND, IN INTEREST OF STATE SECURITY, REQUEST TO DEPART WAS REFUSED. ARONOVICH PRESUMES THAT REFERENCE TO REQUEST TO PARTY CONCERNS A DECEMBER 1975 LETTER HE WROTE TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BUT HE FINDS TIMING AND FORM OF RESPONSE RATHER PUZZLING. ARONOVICH REFUSED TO SIGN STATEMENT THAT (A) HE WAS REFUSED EXIT PERMISSION IN STATE INTERESTS AND (B) THAT HE COULD REAPPLY WITHIN SIX MONTHS. RE LATTER POINT, ARONOVICH NOTED WITH AMUSEMENT THAT TYPED STATEMENT SPECIFIED "ONE YEAR" AND SOMEONE HAD CAREFULLY CHANGED THIS WITH PEN TO SIX MONTHS. ARONOVICH MUSED THAT THIS SHOWED HELSINKI COUNTED FOR SOMETHING.

4. ARONOVICH INTENDS TO COMPLAIN FORMALLY TO LENINGRAD PROCURATOR ABOUT CONFUSION IN ACTUAL DATE OF LAST REFUSAL. I.E. HE BELIEVES CLOCK SHOULD RUN FROM ORAL SUSTAINING REFUSAL OF LAST MARCH.

5. FYI ARONOVICH'S EXPECTANT WIFE REPORTEDLY DUE TO ARRIVE CHICAGO FROM VIENNA ON MAY 15.
NEUBERT

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